



**Riverside County Sheriff - Coroner Division**  
**Coroner Investigation**

MODE **Undetermined**

CASE # **202113144**

Master File

STATUS **Post**

DEPUTY **Craig Wills**

**CASE INFO**

REPORTED BY <b>CHP - Indio</b>	AGENCY <b>Cal. Highway Patrol - Indio</b>	DATE <b>12-23-21</b>	TIME <b>17:39</b>		
NEWS RELEASE ****	NAME RELEASABLE ****	ROLL-OUT? <b>YES</b>	# OF PHOTOS ****	MEDIUM ****	SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES <b>N/A</b>

**DECEDENT INFO**

NAME (FIRST) <b>Jodi</b>	(MIDDLE) <b>Kristin</b>	(LAST) <b>Newkirk</b>				
AKA	DOE TYPE/NUMBER <b>Undetermined 708-21</b>	PHONE				
ADDRESS ****	CITY <b>Mountain Center</b>	STATE <b>CA</b>	ZIP <b>92561</b>			
SEX <b>Female</b>	RACE	DOB <b>09-02-75</b>	AGE <b>46 yrs</b>			
BODY BAG # <b>110902</b>	TOE TAG <b>55576</b>	SS# ****	HEIGHT	WEIGHT <b>129.0 lbs</b>	HAIR	EYES
DRIVER'S LIC# ****	STATE <b>CA</b>	HOW IDENTIFIED <b>Fingerprints / Cal-Id on 12/24/2021</b>				

**LEGAL NEXT OF KIN**

NAME <b>[REDACTED]</b>	RELATIONSHIP <b>Son</b>	MOTHER'S DOB/AG	DATE/TIME NOTIFY <b>00:00</b>	NOTIFIED BY <b>Family</b>
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	
PHONE ****	ALTERNATE PHONE #			

**PLACE/DEATH OCCURRED**

DATE <b>12-23-21</b>	TIME <b>17:28 FND</b>	DAY OF DEATH <b>Thursday</b>	PRONOUNCED BY <b>Cal-Fire Paramedic Rottler, P25630 / Confirmed</b>
PLACE OF DEATH <b>Dirt roadway</b>	IP-ER/OP-DOA	FAC OTHER THAN HOSPITAL <b>Other</b>	
FACILITY ADDRESS OR LOCATION WHERE FOUND <b>58111 Bonita Vista Rd</b>	CITY <b>Mountain Center</b>		

**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

Additional Narrative Attached **YES**

**MEDICAL HISTORY**

**MEDICATIONS**

**MEDICAL**

TRANSPORTED FROM <b>N/A</b>	ADMITTED TO <b>N/A</b>	DATE	TIME <b>00:00</b>	M/R ORDERED	MED REC #	BLOOD ORDERED
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**CAUSE OF DEATH**

CAUSE (A) <b>Acute Methamphetamine Toxicity</b>	TIME INTERVAL Minutes	BIOPSY PERFORMED <b>NO</b>
DUE TO (B)	TIME INTERVAL	AUTOPSY PERFORMED <b>YES</b>
(C)	TIME INTERVAL	AUTOPSY# EXAM# <b>A1627-21 MF</b>
(D)	TIME INTERVAL	INDIGENT#

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE GIVEN IN 107  
**None**

WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION IN ITEM 107 OR 112? IF YES LIST THEM ALL  
**NO**

DESCRIBE:

Related Case Number(s)

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN	PHONE	DATE LAST ATTENDED	Cause Given By <b>Mark Fajardo</b> Date <b>12-28-21</b> Time <b>08:30</b>
PHYSICIAN TO SIGN D.C.	ADDRESS	PHONE	

**INJURY**

SPECIFY MODE <b>Undetermined</b>	PLACE OF INJURY	AT WK?	DATE	HOUR <b>00:00</b>
LOCATION INCLUDING ZIP CODE				
DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED				

**PROPERTY**

PROPERTY? <b>YES</b>	PROP RLS'D? <b>NO</b>			
AGENCY <b>California Highway Patrol</b>		AGENT <b>Hoskins, ID# 14962</b>	REPORT NUMBER <b>9655-2021-11519</b>	



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**AUTOPSY**

ORDERED BY	DATE	TOX ORDEREDED 12-28-21	TOX RECEIVED 01-19-22	AGENT(S) TO ATTEND
REVIEWED YES/NO      YES      Ramirez 11/20/2022 9:16:31 AM				
APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY: Albert      ID#: N3934      DATE: 11/20/2022 11:28:31 PM				



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**Coroner Investigation**

**12-25-2021**

Report of Death to Coroner:

On 12/23/2021, at 1739 hours, I received a call from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Dispatch, who called reporting a roll over traffic collision involving an all terrain vehicle on a rural property located at 58111 Bonita Vista Road, in Mountain Center, with one fatality. I told the dispatcher I would be en route to the scene.

I contacted CHP Officer Hoskins (ID#14962) who told me the following information. Officer Hoskins responded to the scene, which was a large dirt driveway on a private ranch property, arriving at 1719 hours. He observed the reporting party, who was identified as Keith Harper, and the property manager performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a female who was lying on the ground, underneath an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV). The female was later positively identified as forty-six year old Jodi Newkirk and hereafter referred to as such. Harper pushed the ATV away from the female and continued CPR until the Riverside County Fire Department Paramedics arrived to the scene. Paramedics placed Newkirk on a cardiac monitor and noted she was in asystole. No further medical intervention was performed. Paramedic Rottler (ID #P25630) pronounced the death of Jodi Newkirk at 1728 hours.

Officer Hoskins stated there did not appear to be any trauma or injuries consistent with a roll-over traffic collision. He said he was concerned with Harper's account of what happened to Newkirk and he felt the death was suspicious. I told Officer Hoskins I would be en route to the scene.

**Transportation:**

At 1833 hours, I requested Coroner's transportation to respond to the scene to transport Jodi Newkirk to the Forensic Center in Perris.

**Additional Information Obtained:**

I responded with my Field Training Officer, Deputy L. Gonzalez (N4294), from the Forensic Center in Perris at 1833 hours, and drove to the scene arriving at 1948 hours. I met with Officer Hoskins who directed me to the scene of the accident. Officer Hoskins reported that Newkirk was traveling at an unknown speed, possibly lost control of the ATV, was possibly ejected from the ATV, and the ATV landed on top of her torso. The ATV was on its side with Newkirk was partially underneath. He observed no damage to the ATV. Officer Hoskins also stated he observed the tire tracks in the wet dirt leading up to the ATV. The tire tracks ended abruptly behind the ATV indicating that it simply came to a stop. He also pointed out that there were no skid or slide marks and the soil around the ATV was not disturbed. There was no helmet present on Newkirk's head and none found in the area.

Harper told Officer Hoskins that Newkirk had worked on the ranch for approximately three and a half months. She was last known to be alive by her ex-husband on 12/23/2021, at 0830 hours, when he picked her up at her residence and dropped her off at the ranch. On 12/23/2021, at 1615 hours, Harper saw her by the horse corral. Harper stated Newkirk asked for a small shovel then drove off on the ATV to go look for a Christmas tree. An hour later, Harper stated he went looking for Newkirk. He noticed a blinking orange light and walked to the area. Harper stated that he found Newkirk underneath the ATV, unresponsive, and he called 911.



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**Scene Description:**

The scene was a large ranch property, with a main residence and multiple smaller buildings. It was raining heavily and dark out. There were no outside lights on. I observed an ATV, on its right side in a flat, dirt driveway area. Newkirk was lying to the rear of the ATV, covered by a blue tarp. I did not observe any major damage to the ATV. The rubber hand grips appeared torn. There were miscellaneous items, (tools, hose, plastic funnel), scattered on the ground next to the ATV, from an unknown origin. Soil around the ATV appeared undisturbed.

**Deputy Coroner's External Examination of Remains:**

Jodi Newkirk appeared as an adult, White female. She had brown hair and brown eyes.

**a) Body Position:**

Newkirk was lying supine on a muddy area of a dirt driveway.

**b) Clothing Description:**

She was wearing black pants, multicolor underwear, a red shirt, a black shirt, a black jacket, an orange jacket, white socks and brown boots, one white glove and one black glove.

**c) Post Mortem Changes:**

Newkirk was cold to the touch. Rigor was present and broken with moderate pressure. Lividity was present and was consistent with her position and blanched with light pressure.

**d) Ambient temperature and method used:**

Unknown.

**e) Identifying marks, scars, tattoos:**

None observed.

**f) Trauma:**

There was a small abrasion to her right hip area.

**g) Other Observations:**

A glass pipe was found in Newkirk's right jacket pocket.

While conducting the body examination, Officer Hoskins informed me that Harper was under investigation related to the missing person report of the property owner of the ranch who disappeared over a year ago. Harper was living at the property and had numerous law enforcement contacts regarding his alleged involvement.

At 2055 hours, I stopped processing Newkirk and contacted Coroner Sergeant R. Baker (ID #N4791) to provide her with the circumstances surrounding the death. I informed Sergeant Baker that according to law enforcement, Harper's account of the events did not match up to the scene findings and lack of trauma to the decedent. I informed Sergeant Baker that it was my opinion that investigators should be contacted and she was in agreement. At 2100 hours, Deputy Gonzalez contacted the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Hemet Station, investigators who were familiar with the property address and Harper. They requested we stop processing the case and this case was turned over to the Central Homicide Unit (CHU). We were asked to meet up with the investigators at the Lake Hemet Substation for a briefing.



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When the briefing concluded, it was decided to have a deputy coroner from day shift return on 12/24/2021, to continue the death investigation. Please refer to Deputy Coroner T. Galvan's (ID #N4767) supplemental report for further information.

**Documentation:**

I took thirty-seven color digital photographs at the scene.

Personal property was collected and inventoried on coroner's receipt #65910 and #67405.

For further information, refer to the California Highway Patrol, file #9655-2021-11519 and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, file #D213570038.

**Confirmation of Identification:**

The inked set of fingerprints were scanned over to Cal-ID. On 12/24/21, at about 1739 hours, this office received a phone call from Cal-ID stating the inked fingerprints submitted were not of sufficient quality. On 12/24/2021, at 1815 hours, I broke open the bag seal, #110595, in order to obtain additional fingerprints from Newkirk, which were scanned over to Cal-ID to confirm identification. I resealed the bag at 1846 hours, with seal #097720. At 2225 hours, this office received an e-mail confirming Newkirk's identification.

**Notification of Next of Kin:**

Investigator Loureiro ID #2748, of RSO- CHU, called the office and asked for next of kin's contact information. Family was notified of Newkirk's death. On 12/27/22, Newkirk's family called the coroner's bureau, and notification was confirmed.

**Cause of Death Statement:**

On 10/28/21, an autopsy was performed by Chief Forensic Pathologist, Dr. M. Fajardo (refer to autopsy protocol #A1627-21 MF). On completion of the autopsy, a pending Certificate of Death was issued by this office and a toxicological sample was sent to the contract lab for analysis.

On 02/05/22, Dr. Fajardo determined the cause of death to be, "Acute Methamphetamine Toxicity." This cause of death was entered on a Certificate of Death and certified by this office. Based on the investigation, the autopsy findings, the toxicology results and the cause of death provided, the manner of death was determined to be, "Undetermined."

**Disposition:**

On 01/03/22, Newkirk's remains were released to Arrowhead Aftercare Crematory and Burial at the request of the family for final disposition.

Report Prepared By: Craig Wills, N5875  
Deputy Coroner  
02/18/2022



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**12-30-2021**

**Coroner Supplemental**

**Supplemental Information**

On 12/24/2021, at 0600 hours, Deputy C. Wills (ID #N5875) informed me of a suspicious death located at 58111 Bonita Vista Road, in Mountain Center. Deputy Wills asked me to respond to the scene to conduct the body examination of 46-year-old Jodi Newkirk when Sergeant (Sgt.) Baeza (ID #2738) with the Riverside Sheriff Department (RSD) Central Homicide Unit (CHU) called. At approximately 0830 hours, Sgt. Baeza called and informed me they were ready for us to respond.

**Transportation:**

At 0904 hours, I notified coroner's transportation to respond and transport Jodi Newkirk to the Forensic Center in Perris.

**Details:**

I left the Perris Forensic Center (PFC) and arrived at the residence at 1104 hours. I met with Investigator S. Anderson (ID #4406), from RSD CHU. Investigator Anderson escorted me to a muddy area of a dirt driveway where Newkirk was lying, she was covered with a tarp and her body was near an all terrain vehicle.

At 1135 hours, I began the external body examination of Newkirk. The body was that of a female adult with dark brown hair and brown eyes. Newkirk was lying supine on the ground wearing a red t-shirt, black sweatshirt, orange jacket, brown underwear, and blue jeans. A pair of brown boots and white socks were next to her lower left leg. I noted an abrasion to the right-side pelvic area. Medical intervention was in place with evidence of defibrillator pads on Newkirk's chest. Newkirk was cold to touch. Rigor was present that broke with pressure. Lividity was on the right-side of her flank which was consistent with her found position and blanched with moderate pressure.

At the time of my investigation, it was thirty-nine degrees Fahrenheit, as recorded by my County vehicle. I processed Newkirk's hands at the scene. I collected fingernail clippings from her right hand at 1152 hours, and from her left hand at 1156 hours. I released the fingernail clippings to Investigator Anderson. I obtained one strip of inked right thumbprints to be submitted to CAL-ID for identity confirmation. At 1200 hours, I attempted a blood draw of her right femoral, but was unsuccessful.

At 1213 hours, I placed toe tag number 55576 on Newkirk's right great toe. At 1219 hours, Newkirk was placed into a body bag. At 1220 hours, I sealed her body bag with coroner's seal number 110902.

I took forty-two photographs of Newkirk. I did not collect personal property. At 1251 hours, I left the scene and returned to the PFC.

At 1650 hours, I broke seal #110902 at the Perris Forensic Center (PFC) with Deputy Coroner Yturalez (ID#N6055) as a witness. I obtained two additional strips of inked right thumbprints from Newkirk to be submitted to CAL-ID. At 1703 hours, I resealed the body bag with coroner's seal number 110595.



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This information will be forwarded to Deputy Coroner Wills for his report.

Reported prepared by: Tammy Galvan, N4767  
Deputy Coroner I  
01/30/2022





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**10-25-2022**

**Coroner Supplemental**

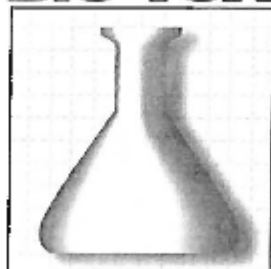
**Supplemental Information**

On 10/25/2022, at 1600 hours, Coroner Sergeant K. Ramirez (ID #N5996) received a call from Investigator A. Loureiro (ID #2748) requesting this office release the law enforcement hold regarding the cause of death for Jodi Newkirk. The cause of death by Dr. Mark Fajardo was acute methamphetamine toxicity. Investigator Loureiro stated that during the course of his investigation he was not able to rule out foul play. There also was no evidence to determine if Newkirk administered the drugs herself or if someone else administered it to her. The manner of death will be listed as undetermined.

Report Prepared By: Aimee Roberts

Coroner Corporal, #N3700

Date: 10/25/2022

**BIO-TOX**

# Bio-Tox LABORATORIES



SHERIFF-CORONER  
JAN 19 '22 PM 1:03

Laboratory Director  
Erin Crabtree, M.S., D-ABFT-FT

Toxicologist  
Ola Bawardi, M.S.

Toxicologist  
Kristen Steward, M.S., D-ABFT-FT

RIVERSIDE CORONER  
800 S. REDLANDS  
PERRIS, CA 92570

2021-13144  
NEWKIRK, JODI K.

PATIENT NAME		SEX	DATE OF DEATH
NEWKIRK, JODI K.		F	12/23/21

BTL NUMBER	REQUESTING AGENCY	REQUESTED BY	AGENCY NUMBER
1-23516-3	7400	WILLS	2021-13144

SPECIMEN	DATE COLLECTED	TIME TAKEN	DATE RECEIVED	DATE REPORTED
PERIP BL	12/28/21		12/29/21	01/14/22

10-PANEL IMMUNOASSAY DRUG SCREEN

BLOOD SCREENED FOR:

AMPHETAMINES, BENZODIAZEPINES, CANNABINOIDS, COCAINE AND/OR METABOLITE,  
OPIATES, PHENCYCLIDINE (PCP), CARISOPRODOL, FENTANYL, OXYCODONE AND ZOLPIDEM

TEST	RESULTS
ETHYL ALCOHOL	0.000% (W/V)
AMPHETAMINES	DETECTED
METHAMPHETAMINE, LC/MS/MS	3.500 mg/L
AMPHETAMINE, LC/MS/MS	0.285 mg/L

ANALYSIS BY: ERIN CRABTREE,  
ALEXIS SCHROEDER,  
KRISTEN STEWARD & OLA BAWARDI